

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces the claims presently in the application:

1. (currently amended) A dispense head comprising a plurality of inlets for connection to separate beverage supply lines, each inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a common dispense nozzle, wherein each inlet opens to an inlet section of the dispense nozzle via a respective dispense valve and the inlet sections merge into a common outlet section, and wherein a lower flow rate of beverage is provided at one or both of the start of the dispense and the end of the dispense by selectively opening or closing the dispense valves at different times during the dispense, such that at one or both of the start of the dispense and the end of the dispense at least one, but less than all, of the dispense valves are closed.

2-5. (cancelled).

6. (previously presented) A dispense head according to claim 1 wherein the dispense valves are on/off solenoid valves.

7. (previously presented) A dispense head according to claim 1 wherein the dispense valves are operable via a control unit in response to user actuation of a dispense.

8-9. (cancelled).

10. (withdrawn) A dispense head according to claim 9 wherein the airway comprises an unrestricted passageway open to atmosphere and air is prevented from being drawn into the nozzle during dispense by a small proportion of the dispensed

beverage flowing out through the airway and re-combining with the main beverage stream emerging from the nozzle.

11. (withdrawn) A dispense head according to claim 10 wherein, when the dispense valve is closed at the end of the dispense, the flow of the beverage creates a vacuum in the dispense nozzle downstream of the dispense valve that causes air to be drawn into the nozzle through the airway allowing the nozzle to drain fully.

12. (previously presented) A dispense head according to claim 21 wherein the airway comprises a passageway controlled by a drain valve that is closed to prevent air being drawn into the nozzle during beverage dispense.

13. (original) A dispense head according to claim 12 wherein, when the dispense valve is closed at the end of the dispense, the drain valve is opened allowing air to be drawn into the nozzle by the vacuum created by the flow of the beverage and allowing the nozzle to drain fully.

14-15. (cancelled).

16. (currently amended) A dispense head comprising an inlet for connection to a beverage supply line, the inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a dispense nozzle having an outlet, and means for draining the dispense nozzle downstream of the dispense valve through the dispense nozzle outlet when the dispense valve is close, the draining means including means for admitting air to the dispense nozzle downstream from the dispense valve and upstream from the outlet.

17. (currently amended) A dispense head according to claim 16 wherein the ~~drain~~ means for admitting air comprises an air inlet to the dispense nozzle upstream from the outlet for admitting air into the dispense nozzle to drain the dispense nozzle on completion of a dispense.

18. (withdrawn) A dispense head according to claim 17 wherein the airway comprises an unrestricted passageway open to atmosphere and air is prevented from being drawn into the nozzle during beverage dispense by a small proportion of the dispensed beverage flowing out through the airway and re-combining with the main beverage stream emerging from the nozzle.

19. (cancelled).

20. (currently amended) A dispense head ~~according to claim 22~~ comprising an inlet for connection to a beverage supply line, the inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a dispense nozzle, and means for draining the dispense nozzle downstream of the dispense valve when the dispense valve is closed, wherein the drain means comprises an inlet for admitting air to drain the dispense nozzle on completion of a dispense, wherein the inlet for admitting air comprises a passageway controlled by a drain valve that is closed to prevent air being drawn into the nozzle during beverage dispense, and wherein a short time delay is provided on completion of a dispense before opening the drain valve.

21. (currently amended) A dispense head comprising a plurality of inlets for connection to separate beverage supply lines, each inlet communicating with a dispense

valve opening to a common dispense nozzle having a lower beverage outlet, wherein means is provided for draining the dispense nozzle downstream of the dispense valve when the dispense valve is closed, and wherein the drain means comprises an airway for admitting air to the dispense nozzle upstream from the outlet at the end of the dispense to drain beverage from the dispense nozzle through the lower outlet.

22. (currently amended) A dispense head comprising an inlet for connection to a beverage supply line, the inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a dispense nozzle having a lower beverage outlet, and means for draining the dispense nozzle downstream of the dispense valve when the dispense valve is closed, wherein the drain means comprises an inlet for admitting air to the dispense nozzle upstream from the outlet to drain the dispense nozzle through the lower beverage outlet on completion of a dispense, and wherein the inlet for admitting air comprises a passageway controlled by a drain valve that is closed to prevent air being drawn into the nozzle during beverage dispense.

23. (currently amended) A dispense head ~~comprising a plurality of inlets for connection to separate beverage supply lines, each inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a common dispense nozzle, wherein each inlet opens to an inlet section of the dispense nozzle via a respective dispense valve and the inlet sections merge into a common outlet section, and~~ according to claim 1, wherein the outlet section has a cross-sectional area matching the combined cross-sectional areas of the inlet sections.

24. (currently amended) A dispense head ~~comprising a plurality of inlets for connection to separate beverage supply lines, each inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a common dispense nozzle, wherein each inlet opens to an inlet section of the dispense nozzle via a respective dispense valve and the inlet sections merge into a common outlet section, and~~ according to claim 1, wherein the inlet sections are inclined relative to the outlet section and converge to merge smoothly into the outlet section avoiding sudden changes in the direction of flow.

25-26. (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) A dispense head comprising an inlet for connection to a beverage supply line, the inlet communicating with a dispense valve opening to a dispense nozzle having a lower beverage outlet, and means for draining the dispense nozzle downstream of the dispense valve when the dispense valve is closed, wherein the drain means comprises an inlet for admitting air to said dispense nozzle upstream from the outlet to drain beverage from the dispense nozzle through the outlet on completion of a dispense.